

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24, and 26-30 are pending with Claims 1, 12, 24, 26 and 28-30 being independent. Claim 27 has been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claims 1 and 27 for minor informalities therein. The Examiner suggested specific amendments to overcome these objections. In response, Claim 27 has been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggestion to overcome the objection. However, Claim 1 has not been amended, since the image management file has an antecedent basis on line 6 of Claim 1.

Rejection

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,068,837 B2 (Ahne et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a method of managing images on an image management device comprising at least one connector for connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second category. The method comprises configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to the management of the images in the second category, and saving the image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information. The method also comprises then, following connection of the memory space containing the images and the selection information to the image management device: obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory space; and managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at least one configured image management file.

By this arrangement, images can be automatically processed that are previously selected by a camera or other device. Thus, for example, on a camera, images can be selected to identify images in a first category, (images not having been selected forming images in a second category), and when the camera, containing images and the selection information, is connected to an image management device, the images in the first category and second category can be managed according to the information relating to the processing of the two different categories in the management file in the image management device.

In contrast, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest a method of managing images on an image management device comprising at least one connector for connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection information, as recited by Claim 1. The Office Action at page 8, lines 13 and 14 appears to identify a PC memory as the claimed memory space containing images. However, the Office Action has not identified any selection information stored on the memory space containing images, *i.e.*, allegedly on the PC. Applicants do not understand this patent to disclose selection information stored on a PC, but rather, as described in column 9, line 63 to column 10, line 3, Applicants understand that the printer stores a memory location for the file stored on the PC and then receives the file from his stored location using a control program on the PC. Accordingly, this patent is not understood to disclose or suggest selection information stored on the memory space containing images, as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest at least one memory space containing images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second category, as recited by Claim 1. Page 8, lines 12 and 13 of the Office Action appears to identify the first category as the printer and the second category as the PC memory. But this conclusion completely contradicts the language of Claim 1, which indicates that images of both categories are stored on the same memory space (*i.e.*, not on the image management device). Accordingly, this patent is not understood to disclose or suggest that both categories of images are stored on the memory space, as recited by Claim 1, as is admitted on page 8, lines 12-13 of the Office Action.

Further, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to the management of the images in the second category, and saving the image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, as also recited by Claim 1.

Page 8, lines 10-12 of the Office Action concludes that this patent discloses at least one image management file because the user has “the ability to interface and give commands to a printer wherein the files are accessed using the file management system”. However, the Office Action does not cite any particular passage of the Ahne et al. patent to support this assertion. Column 5, lines 31-33 of this patent is understood to disclose an LCD provided on the printer to allow the user to give commands, and column 5, lines 34-36 is understood to disclose a menu option in interface software to allow a user to select currently saved files in the printer memory. But Applicants submit that the disclosure of an interface to give printer commands is not a disclosure of at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to the management of the images in the second category, and saving the image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, as also recited by Claim 1. In addition, Applicants submit that the disclosure of an interface to select saved files in a printer memory is also not a disclosure of at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to the management of the images in the second category, and saving the

image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, as also recited by Claim 1. And this patent is also not understood to disclose or suggest the configuring of such an image management file, as also recited by Claim 1.

Moreover, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest the obtaining of the selection information for the images from the connected memory space, as also recited by Claim 1, since as previously discussed, this patent is not understood to disclose any selection information stored on the memory space. Therefore, this patent is not understood to disclose transferring such non-existent selection information for the images from the PC to the printer.

Last, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest the managing of the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at least one image management file, as also recited by Claim 1. Page 9, lines 3 and 4 of the Office Action states that “The user also has the option of managing the files and the memory in the printer or PC which is the first and second category respectively”. However, since 1) the claims recites the managing of images ... according to information in the at least one image management file, 2) the Office Action has not identified the file disclosed in the Ahne et al. patent that corresponds to such an image management file and the Office Action has not identified a memory space in the Ahne et al. patent containing images in the first and second claimed categories, and 3) this patent is not understood to disclose such an image management file, or a memory space containing the first and second categories of images, the Office has not established that the claimed managing step is disclosed or suggested by the Ahne et al. patent.

For these reasons, Applicants submit that the Office has not satisfied its burden of proof to establish anticipation of Claim 1 by the Ahne et al. patent. And because independent Claims 12, 24, 26, and 28-30 recite similar features, these claims are allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants also respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 1, 12, 24, 26, and 28-30.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier, because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary M. Jacobs/

Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ/klm

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